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Reference: 279196

SEP 28 2018

Rhona Martin, Chair  
Columbia Shuswap Regional District  
555 Harbourfront Drive, NE  
PO Box 978  
Salmon Arm BC V1E 4P1

Dear Chair Martin,

**Re: Greyhound Services**

Thank you for your letter of August 10, 2018, regarding Greyhound services.

I appreciate you expressing concerns on behalf of the board of the Columbia Shuswap Regional District, and I agree that Greyhound's decision to eliminate services across Western Canada, effective October 31, 2018, will have a major impact on communities that depend on these services to travel throughout British Columbia and into the Western provinces. As you note, it could also leave people vulnerable, particularly those along rural and remote routes, as well as Indigenous communities, women, seniors, children and those living with disabilities.

Greyhound's 90-day deadline for service withdrawal provided very little time to develop alternatives for people with limited transportation options. I immediately met with my counterparts in other provinces affected by Greyhound's decision to find solutions to keep people connected within B.C. and through Western Canada. I also wrote to the federal Minister of Transport to advocate for people who need access to safe, reliable and affordable transportation options and am working closely with the federal government and other provinces affected to find solutions to address this national issue as quickly as possible. I am glad to see that you also shared your letter with Minister Garneau for his review.

The provincial government is also encouraging private sector service providers to consider opportunities to fill the space left by Greyhound. The Passenger Transportation Board has made new applications for inter-city bus services a priority and introduced a simplified application package. We are encouraged that a number of companies have expressed interest in operating some of the routes abandoned by Greyhound.

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The Board publishes applications on its website and will accept comments from local governments. You can review applications at the Board's website at: <http://www.ptboard.bc.ca/bulletins.htm>. I understand that two applications were posted on August 29, 2018, including one for service from Calgary to Vancouver via Highways 1 and 5.

You can be sure the provincial government will continue to work to ensure British Columbians throughout the province can access safe and affordable transportation options.

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Claire Trevena', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Claire Trevena  
Minister